

January 7, 2022

Kelly Boldan, Editor
West Central Tribune

As our respective positions of Mayor for Willmar and Kandiyohi County Commissioner, we are requesting the public to assist us in slowing the explosive spread of COVID 19 that we are experiencing in our community at this time.

Our healthcare workers are exhausted and need our help now. The omicron variant is highly contagious and the number of people getting sick is increasing every day by numbers we have not seen before. This affects all age groups and significantly impacting our school-age children disproportionately.

What we are asking the public to do to help our communities:

- Wear your mask when out in public, especially indoors. A medical-grade mask is best. Wear it for at least the next two weeks.
- Limit interaction with others outside of your workgroup or family.
- Wash your hands, stay home if you are sick - get your vaccine.

We are currently not asking for a community shutdown – what we are trying to avoid is a “sick down” where there are not enough people to take care of those who are sick. This could include even enough people to staff our critical services like schools, grocery stores, restaurants and your local fire departments.

We are currently in a crisis and immediate action on our part is necessary to stop this explosive growth of COVID 19. This wave has surpassed last year’s peak. There is going to be a serious rapid climb for the next two (2) weeks. Our community can change this direction if we do these simple things. Together we can possibly save lives and hospitalizations.

These medical facts and information came as a result of a Webinar with Carris Health involving numerous community members within our region. We are asking businesses to continue encouraging mask use.

Together we can change the rapid increase of COVID 19 infections by following these simple requests. We have a great community that cares about each other, by coming together now we can make a difference in this serious medical crisis within our communities.

Sincerely,

Marv Calvin, Mayor

Sincerely

George (Corky) Berg, Chair